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## ANNUAL REPORT

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## SELECTMEN

AND

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE

Town of Montague,

1881-82.

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1881-82 MONTAGUE, MASS.:

PRINTED BY J. T. BAGNALL, PROPRIETOR OF REPORTER.

1882



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## SELECTMEN

AND

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE

*Town of Montague.*

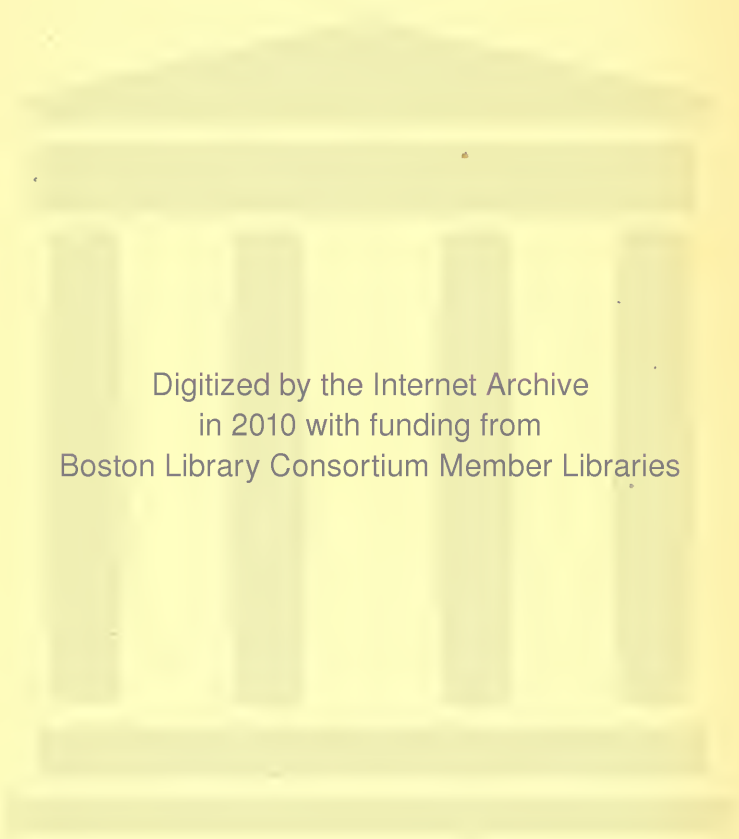
1881-82.

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## TREASURER'S REPORT.

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J. H. ROOT, TREASURER, IN ACCOUNT WITH THE TOWN OF  
MONTAGUE.

	DR.
To Cash on hand Feb. 15, 1881,	\$ 159 98
“ Balance due on Taxes, 1879,	75 00
“ “ “ “ 1880,	2800 22
“ Cash received from Town of Wendell,	85 80
“ “ “ “ Town of Greenfield,	54 22
“ “ “ “ City of Springfield,	22 00
“ “ “ “ City of Fitchburg,	2 00
“ “ “ “ J. H. Brown,	125 00
“ “ “ “ S. E. Ripley, for Stone,	5 00
“ “ “ “ State for Corporation Tax,	562 55
“ “ “ “ “ Bank Tax,	618 15
“ “ “ “ “ State Aid,	471 00
“ “ “ “ “ Relief of Indigent Soldiers,	88 00
“ “ “ “ “ State Paupers,	310 68
“ “ “ “ “ School Fund,	266 45
“ “ “ “ County for Dog Fund,	152 55
“ “ “ “ For Licenses,	1550 00
“ “ “ “ Rent of Lecture, Room,	30 00
“ “ “ “ Damage to School Furniture,	1 00
“ “ “ “ Borrowed Money,	9200 00
“ Amount of Tax Bill for 1881,	38727 23
	\$55306 83

	CR.	
By Paid State Tax,	\$1725 00	
“ County Tax,	3194 44	
“ National Bank Tax,	2954 95	
“ State Aid,	616 00	
“ Relief to Indigent Soldiers,	192 00	
“ Licenses,	387 50	
“ Town Note,	5000 00	
“ Interest on Town Loan,	2025 00	
“ Borrowed Money,	5500 00	
“ School Committee's Orders,	9015 02	
“ Selectmen's Orders,	21297 58	
“ Balance due on Taxes, 1879,	45 00	
“ “ “ “ 1880,	955 41	
“ “ “ “ 1881,	2152 23	
Cash on Hand,	246 70	
	<hr/>	\$55306 83

J. H. ROOT, TREASURER.

## SCHOOLING.

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S ACCOUNT.

Town Appropriation,	\$9000 00
From State School Fund,	266 46
	<hr/>
	\$9266 46

## DISBURSEMENTS.

Wages,	\$7053 00	
Repairs on School houses,	220 46	
Fuel,	519 03	
Care,	464 93	
Transportation,	672 04	
Supplies, Crayons, Books, Charts, Erasers,		
etc.	185 60	
	<hr/>	
		\$9115 06

SEYMOUR ROCKWELL,	}	SUP. SCHOOL
W. S. DANA,		
L. S. PARKER,		COMMITTEE.

## HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

## ROAD COMMISSIONERS' ACCOUNT.

Paid for Grading High street,	\$40 00	
Grading Chestnut lane,	178 00	
Grading Fourth street,	325 00	
Grading X street,	110 00	
Grading T street,	90 00	
	<hr/>	\$743 00
Planking one ½ Suspension bridge,	258 32	
Repairs on Suspension bridge,	11 75	
	<hr/>	\$270 07
Planking Bridges and Railing,	408 00	
Hardening Plain roads, and repairs		
Turners Falls and City,	3582 71	
	<hr/>	\$3990 71
Paid Repairs Montague Center,	\$764 44	
Repairs Dry Hill,	45 25	
Repairs Chestnut Hill,	99 32	
Plank, Lumber and Railing,	75 26	
	<hr/>	\$984 27
Repairs, Millers Falls,	\$684 52	
Repairs on Bridges,	112 74	
	<hr/>	\$796 26
		<hr/>
		\$6784 31
Appropriation,		\$6000 00
		<hr/>
Deficiency,		\$784 31

E. DEMOND,	}	ROAD COMMISSIONERS.
S. E. RIPLEY,		
A. L. WEATHERHEAD,		



## PAUPERS.

## OVERSEERS' ACCOUNT.

Dana Cook and wife, \$	63 84	M. Lynch,	32 00
Nathan Stewart,	4 00	Mrs. E. Davis and	
Mrs. John Crimmins,	84 50	children,	18 90
John Crimmins' Casket,	10 00	Mrs. Christian Early,	4 59
Mrs. Boyd Terry,	127 04	Crane Family,	13 65
“ McCarty,	123 30	M. McAllister,	9 90
“ Wolf,	24 00	Miss Julia Ware,	26 15
“ John Commons,	48 00	Christian Haley,	12 50
“ M. G. Caswell,	157 20	Mrs. H. Bowers,	53 00
Lawson Boy,	39 00	Wm. Mason,	22 50
Ezra Stowell,	182 00	Mary Rogers,	16 00
Derrick Sullivan,	56 42	Emma Potter,	10 00
David Mowry,	24 50	John Bullman,	25 00
E. Lombard,	22 00	David Pratt,	20 00
Mrs. Boleo and Lyon,	42 95	Mrs. Leary,	5 00
“ Ward,	16 50	Ralph Galena,	38 86
“ Peter Brusio,	5 25	O. E. Whitney,	20 00
E. C. Coy, Medical		C. Aiken,	9 85
aid, salary,	100 00	14 others,	49 47
Henry Guello,	7 00	Paid on town farm acc't,	736 83
L. Brizee,	4 00		
Mrs. Pearson,	2 00		\$2307 70
Henry Kentfield,	40 00		

Appropriation, \$3000.

EDWIN DEMOND,	}	OVERSEERS OF POOR.
S. E. RIPLEY,		
A. L. WEATHERHEAD,		

## BILLS PAID ON ACCOUNT OF SMALL-POX.

Paid Police,	\$ 11 50
Wood and Coal,	57 53
Hauling and working up Wood,	33 42
Teams and Help, removing sick and goods to Pest House,	92 25
Burying Dead and Burial Expenses,	54 31
Bedding and Furniture for Pest Houses,	242 87
Clothing,	98 90
Nursing,	94 00
Repairs on Pest House,	12 00
Milk,	8 82
House Rent,	15 00
Medicines and Disinfectants,	262 40
Dr. C. C. Messer,	30 00
	<hr/> \$1013 00

## BILLS DUE, NOT PAID, FOR SMALL-POX.

Dr. C. C. Messer,	\$1355 00
M. O'Donnell, Groceries and Provisions,	875 00
	<hr/> \$2230 00

There has been 16 cases of Small-pox and varioloid, besides, over 75 persons were quarantined, whom we had to furnish provisions and fuel. Of the amount paid, and bills not paid, over \$1200 is chargeable to other towns, and the State.

## TOWN FARM.

## OVERSEERS' ACCOUNT.

Received for Potatoes,	\$ 27 60
“ Milk,	71 40
“ Straw,	10 00
“ Stabling Horses,	104 42
“ Shoats,	28 25
“ Pasturing,	37 36
“ Cider,	2 75
“ Walnuts,	3 00
From New London N. R. R.,	20 00
From Town Treasurer,	736 83
	<hr/> \$1041 61
Paid for Help in House,	\$114 72
“ “ on Farm,	28 25
“ Groceries,	218 88
“ Crackers,	10 85
“ Meat,	5 60
“ Blankets and repair Harness,	9 70
“ Clothes Wringer,	5 00
“ Hay,	5 00
“ Balance Charles Wood's salary,	
1880,	45 86
“ Do., do , 1881,	257 00
“ W. H. Ward, Cow,	35 00
“ Sawing Lumber,	8 61
“ Yearling,	5 00
“ Plaster,	10 00
“ Ashes,	8 90
“ Soap,	7 00
“ Clothing,	56 51
“ Blacksmithing,	23 09
“ Meal and Flour,	117 14
“ Medical Services,	20 80
“ Tin Ware,	2 82
“ Pulley Blocks and Rope,	2 65
“ Onions,	4 50
“ Repair of Farming Tools,	11 25

Paid for Tea,	3 00	
“ Medicine,	3 00	
“ Fish,	3 50	
“ Balance on Cow,	13 00	
“ “ “	5 00	
	<hr/>	\$1041 69

## INVENTORY OF TOWN FARM PROPERTY.

Real Estate,		\$5200 00
Live Stock—2 Horses,	\$75 00	
6 Cows,	190 00	
1 Yearling,	10 00	
12 Shoat,	88 00	
48 Hens,	24 00	
Produce and Provisions—		
7 tons, Hay,	135 00	
1 “ Straw,	10 00	
6 Bushels Rye,	5 00	
100 “ Potatoes,	100 00	
7 Barrels Cider,	18 00	
1 “ Vinegar,	4 00	
2 Bushels Beets,	1 00	
2 “ Onions,	1 50	
Beans,	1 00	
$\frac{3}{4}$ Barrels Soap,	3 50	
45 Lbs. Lard,	5 00	
10 “ Butter,	2 50	
200 “ Pork,	25 00	
175 “ Beef,	12 25	
	<hr/>	\$5910 75
Household Furniture,		450 00
Farming Tools,		300 00
		<hr/>
		\$6660 75
Received from Treasury,	\$736 83	

There has been furnished 436 weeks' board to inmates.

EDWIN DEMOND,	}	OVERSEERS OF POOR.
SAMUEL E. RIPLEY,		
A. LEE WEATHERHEAD,		

## SELECTMEN'S ACCOUNT.

## STATE AND COUNTY TAX.

State Tax,	\$1725 00	
County Tax,	3194 44	
	<hr/>	\$4919 44
Appropriation,	\$4500 00	
Deficiency,	419 44	
	<hr/>	\$4919 44

## BANK TAX.

Paid State Treasurer,	\$2954 95	
“ Assessing and Collecting,	39 00	
	<hr/>	\$2993 95

## STATE AID.

Paid Military Aid from March 1st, '81,		
to March 1st. '82,	\$616 00	
“ to Indigent Soldiers from March 1st,		
'81, to March 1st, '82,	192 00	
	<hr/>	\$808 00
Due for Military Aid,	\$706 00	
“ “ Indigent Soldiers,	112 00	
	<hr/>	\$818 00

## POLICE, TURNERS FALLS.

Paid 2 Police,	\$1250 00	
Appropriation,	\$1200 00	
Deficiency,	50 00	
	<hr/>	\$1250 00

## CENTRAL STREET SCHOOL HOUSE.

Paid for Building lot,	\$1076 25
for Foundation,	312 50
L.A. Emery, brickwork as contracted,	2300 00
John Lapoint wood work as contracted,	1910 00
Well and grading,	30 25
Extra work on School House,	133 25
Out Buildings and coal bin,	161 99
Chester Tyler, Plans and oversight,	50 00
	<hr/>
	\$5974 24

## CONTINGENT EXPENSES.

## TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid J. H. Root, Treasurer,	\$100 00
E. Demond, Selectman and Overseer of Poor,	100 00
S. E. Ripley, " " "	100 00
A. L. Weatherhead, " " "	100 00
E. Demond, Assessor,	75 00
S. E. Ripley, " "	75 00
A. L. Weatherhead, Assessor,	75 00
Seymour Rockwell, School Committee,	100 00
W. S. Dana, " "	100 00
L. S. Parker, " "	100 00
E. C. Coy, Board of Health,	50 00
S. E. Ripley, " "	50 00
I. Chenery, " "	25 00
E. F. Gunn, Collector, Balance for 1880,	77 50
	<hr/>
	\$1127 50

## MISCELLANEOUS.

Paid A. Moore, Moderator,	\$5 00
C. T. Bagnall, Printing and Advertising,	95 00
J. A. Tupper, Driving Hearse,	104 00
Joseph Clapp, " "	52 00
L. W. Rice, Pay Book,	10 00
A. Shieding, Damage,	75 00
W. S. Dana, Legal Advice,	75 00
Detectives,	47 75
Turners Falls Library, Dog Fund,	85 25
Montague " " "	85 25
Board of Health,	16 00
E. C. Coy, Vaccination,	175 00
A. V. Bowker, "	21 00
E. A. Deane, "	30 50
Analyzing Beer,	7 00
Water Rent,	21 00
Temporary Interest,	128 12
Furnace, Oakman School-house,	231 44
Truant Officer,	90 00
Bell, Oakman School,	48 22
School Furniture,	406 85
Repairs and Setting up School Furniture,	70 53
Rent of School-room,	112 50
Storing School Furniture,	11 50
A. Williams, Town House,	8 05
R. N. Oakman, Auditor,	6 00
B. W. Mayo, Local Register,	52 00
J. H. Root, Recording Births, Marriages, Deaths, etc.,	71 90
J. H. Root, Blanks, Licenses, Postage, etc.,	25 20
Travelling Expenses, Selectmen,	48 65
Selectmen, Wood, Paper and Postage,	14 90
C. M. Moody, Copy Book,	2 50
E. F. Gunn, Posting Warrants,	8 00
Assessing and Collecting Bank Tax,	39 00

Paid Abatements, Taxes, 1880,	142 19
County Treasury, City Bridge,	240 00
Dr. Cobb, old bill,	28 37
for Lockup,	4 91
for Boat at Rice's Ferry,	185 00
Expenses of Rice's Ferry,	60 25
	<hr/>
	\$2940 83

Contingent Expenses,	1127 50
	<hr/>
	\$4068 33
Appropriation,	1500 00

## SUMMARY OF SELECTMEN'S ORDERS.

Paid Police,	\$1250 00
Miscellaneous Expenses,	2940 83
Town Officers,	1127 50
Central street School House,	5974 24
Highways,	6784 31
Small Pox,	1013 00
Paupers,	2307 70
	<hr/>
	\$21297 58



## LIABILITIES OF THE TOWN.

Town Loan,	\$40000 00
Turners Falls Co., Land for Lockup,	386 00
Borrowed Money,	3700 00
	<hr/>
	\$44086 00

## ASSETS.

Unpaid Taxes for 1879,	\$45 00
“ “ “ 1880,	955 41
“ “ “ 1881,	2152 23
Cash on hand,	246 70
Due for State Aid,	818 00
Due From J. H. Brown,	400 00
Due State Paupers,	90 00
Due from Deerfield, Rice's Ferry,	122 62
Due from other towns for Paupers,	81 43
	<hr/>
	\$3911 39

Net Town Debt, Mar. 1st, 1881,	40333 58
“ “ “ “ 1st, 1882,	40174 61
	<hr/>
Net decrease the current year,	\$158 97

ESTIMATED NECESSARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR  
1882.

State and County Taxes,	\$6000 00
Schooling,	9000 00
Interest,	2000 00
Support of Poor,	3000 00
Police,	1200 00
Highways and Bridges,	6000 00
Incidental Expenses,	2300 00
Town Debt,	5000 00
Small Pox Bill,	2500 00
	————— \$37000 00

Respectfully Submitted,

EDWIN DEMOND,	} SELECTMEN
SAML E. RIPLEY,	
A. L. WEATHERHEAD,	
	OF
	MONTAGUE.

MONTAGUE, February 27, 1882.

We have this day examined the books and accounts of the Treasurer and Selectmen, and find them correctly kept, and the disbursements properly vouched for.

JAMES A. GUNN,	} Finance
R. N. OAKMAN,	
	Committee.

## TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MONTAGUE PUBLIC LIBRARY,

FROM FEB. 1st. 1881, TO FEB. 1st. 1882.

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Whole number of volumes in Library,	2070
Number added the past year,	150
Number of Families taking Books,	55
Received from Members,	\$43 54
“ for Catalogues,	25
“ from Dog Fund,	85 25
	<hr/> \$129 04
Amount Expended for Books,	\$141 58
“ “ “ Magazines,	6 65
Incidental Expenses,	2 15
Furniture and Repairs,	20 20
	<hr/> \$170 58
Librarian's Salary,	\$50 00

KATE ARMSTRONG, Librarian.

E. A. DEANE, Treasurer.

Montague, Feb. 1st, 1882.

REPORT  
OF THE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF MONTAGUE,  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1882.

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The continuance of the pleasant relations between all parties to the schools which seem to be more and more amicable as the prosperity and intelligence of the Town advance, makes it an agreeable duty to again render our annual report.

We can speak of the present in general commendation, and very hopefully and confidently of the future. We have not been pleased with everything, nor did we expect unqualified approval from every source, even with our best and most conscientious efforts. We feel very grateful for the apparently well established disposition of the community to recognize our good intentions, and to treat our mistakes charitably. A Committee with a commendable purpose to advance and improve the educational interests by new measures, is certain to encounter more or less friction. Every community has some individ-

uals who want things to remain just as they have always been, and look with positive distrust and disapproval upon any change. These individuals were the chief mourners when the district system was abolished, and still refuse to be comforted. To be a party to the petty feuds and factions that had grown up in almost every school district, was an inalienable right. A new teacher must go into the school every term, no matter how worthy the last one, nor what uncertainty and confusion the change involved, so each had his turn to hire. And even to this day, after more than a dozen years of the town system, they speak with peculiar affection and interest of "our school" and "our district" as though they were circumscribed by the old boundaries, and had a personal investment in the old school house, distinct from their interest in all the others.

They refuse to see that they own as much in one school building as another, and pay a common tax for the support of all, and have as much claim upon one as another, so that wherever the Committee is pleased to send their children they encroach upon nobody's rights and prerogatives, but are simply enjoying and availing themselves of their own. They cannot see why the number of schools should not remain the same, even when districts are nearly depopulated. They look upon the suspension of a school as an infringement upon their rights, though its numbers have been reduced from forty to five pupils. These charges happily apply to but a very few. Yet a few active, obstinate men may, at least, cause themselves some distress, and others some annoyance, if they do no greater mischief. Except the few alluded to, though some of the large majority who now sustain us looked at first with doubt upon some radical changes, there is a general verdict in favor of the wisdom of the measures adopted by the committee. They can see that it was not wise to maintain half a dozen schools where the same object could be attained better and more cheaply in one. They can see that an indispensable condition to success in a school is a good number of

pupils, say from twenty-five to forty. None of the suspended schools had nearly this number. Another obvious condition is an attractive, well-ventilated, well-warmed building. Only one of the former districts can claim any such a possession. And that the three or four hundred dollars saved can be applied to the one school with palpable effect, needs no demonstration. It is also admitted that the consolidation has been for the best interests of the school at the centre, of which the suspended schools now form a part. Without sufficient numbers a thoroughly graded school, consisting of a Primary, Grammar and High department, could not well be constituted, and without a reasonable number we should hardly be justified in incurring the expense of maintaining three schools at the centre. Re-open the old district schools and return the thirty or forty children to them, and it would be impossible to make them anything but mixed schools, while the one at the centre, of which we believe we have a right to be proud, must relapse into the same old-fashioned state. The consolidation will be of great utility in the future, as it has been in the past few years. To illustrate: at the City we had a large class that had outgrown the school, had advanced not only to the high school course but considerably into it. Justice could not be done them if they remained, without doing injustice to the rest of the school, which had the three prescribed grades besides. This class was sent, a part to the high school at the centre and a part to the highest grade at Turners Falls (the committee giving them the privilege of electing), where they were prepared to enter the classes of the respective schools with no interruption in their course. At Federal street, which we design to keep of the primary grade, a class of seven or eight had advanced to the second year of the grammar school course. This class was transferred to the center grammar, the pupils having pursued the same studies, and their advancement having been practically identical.

Should the population increase so as to over-crowd the cen-

tre house, a school can readily be constituted of a grade common to one of the grades in the center, and kept in the west house, it being one of the best in town, without reference to whether the pupils happen to live within the limits of what was once the west district. A school thus formed can be maintained as a department of the centre, like Federal street and the other adjacent schools. We request the teachers in all these departments to confer together, with a view to keep them uniform in studies and advancement, and as well as may be in methods of instruction.

So much of our Report is more particularly applicable to the department of the centre.

### TURNERS FALLS.

The rapid increase and continual change in the population in this department make frequent changes in the regulations necessary. For this reason we have delayed making what we could call a permanent grade and course of study.

Within the past year however we have effected a reorganization and framed a course of studies which we think can be well adjusted to the schools. Each primary has been made of a single grade. In years past they have been of two and three grades, and promotions have been made by classes. Hereafter promotions are to be made by schools, the same schools to be advanced through all the primary and intermediate grades, giving grades without a division.

The overgrown primaries should have the very best facilities. In them but little study can be insisted upon or enforced. If of but one grade the duties and exercises will be common to all, and the teaching can be made what it should be, almost wholly oral. Oral teaching develops and makes a constant and



healthful demand upon the resources of the teacher and invites her to acquaint herself with all the improved methods that are being devised by public educators and published in public prints. It shows her the fallacy of "resting on her laurels," of even being content to know and apply the best tested and most approved methods of to-day, without a desire and purpose to read and extend her observation to the never-so-fast advancing discoveries in ways of instruction and discipline, and means of making the school-room pleasant and attractive and healthful to children.

The large primaries at Turners Falls need and deserve the best teachers and the best instruction. Here the application of the most modern facilities do not conflict with hereditary and over-sensitive prejudices as is often the case in rural districts. Here public opinion seems to evince a preference for them.

The course for the 8th grade has been made of the high school order, though as yet there seems to be no imperative demand for a liberal high school course, embracing all the classical and English studies usually adopted.

The alacrity of the responses to the demand for a new school house almost every year is a good indication that the community has an adequate sense of the importance of making the best provisions for the education of the children of all classes and conditions. The tolerant, harmonious public sentiment, an indispensable factor, is a source of great gratification to the committee.

## ATTENDANCE.

The attendance of the spring and fall terms was the best for a good many years. The winter term has been seriously interrupted by epidemic diseases, mumps, measles and small-pox; so that the record for the year will not be all we could wish. It may seem like commonplace moralizing to attempt to add any-



thing to what has been urged in years past on this word-worn subject. Parents are not all aware of the injury done the child by keeping him out for a day or two at a time to work, to visit or for any cause not absolutely necessary. Under the improved systems the child and the school suffer much more from absence than formerly. Our established system of marking and reporting each child, keeps the pupil and the parents informed of his rank in his class. The boy or girl who is kept out for a day or two now and then, loses lessons in important work, which his class learns and understands ; hence he works at a disadvantage for a whole term or more. Besides his mind has been diverted from the school and his interest consequently interrupted. Some parents take them out for a whole term and when they return sometimes complain because they are not assigned to their former class—a class a whole term in advance of them. The system of marking is based upon their daily record and written examinations. Absences place them low in the daily record, and the written examinations embrace all the work the class has been over, more or less, of which in proportion to the time the pupil has been absent is not understood by him. Parents with the best interests of their children and the schools at heart, will keep them out only under the most pressing necessities.

### APPROPRIATIONS.

In our last year's report we asked for an appropriation sufficient to carry all our schools through thirty-six weeks. Last year, we unexpectedly and unintentionally exceeded our appropriations. Demands presented themselves which we could not anticipate. We heard no censure for so doing. The desire seems general for three terms of twelve weeks each. At the last annual town meeting a sum was appropriated deemed sufficient for that end without a dissenting voice. At least two

new schools will have to be formed the ensuing year. Hence the appropriations should be not less than five hundred dollars more than for the past year.

In conclusion, we would say that it has been the leading ambition of the Committee to be able to say that the schools of Montague are graded Schools. The only means of effecting this in the old part of the town was, as we have tried to show, by uniting a number of them in one. And the better to facilitate this we have hired many teachers especially trained, and retained many through successive terms, and even years, that they might become familiar with their respective departments and be stimulated to devise and acquire the very best ways of teaching. It is with great satisfaction that we see the growing ambition of the pupils to keep up with their classes, and to go through the course in all the grades, and that parents share with them and encourage this aspiration. With our improved facilities for keeping parents informed of the progress, rank and deportment of their children, there is a greater familiarity with the state of the schools, and a corresponding greater disposition to promote their welfare.

SEYMOUR ROCKWELL,	}	SCHOOL COMMITTEE.
WM. S. DANA,		
L. S. PARKER,		



